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Executive Registry
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SOCIETY OF SPONSORS
OF THE
UNITED STATES NAVY

8/19/77

My dear Admiral Turner,—

As President of the Society of Sponsors of the United States Navy, it is my privilege to invite you to be the guest speaker at our Annual National luncheon on May 4, 1978.

The membership of our Society is made up of ladies who have christened a fighting ship of the United States Navy. Our Society was founded in 1908 under the aegis of President Theodore Roosevelt, and its purpose is the promotion of interest in and good will toward our Navy. We assist qualified deserving young men prepare for Naval service through Scholarships to Preparatory Schools. I enclose a flyer for your information.

In 1978 we will be celebrating our 70th anniversary, and it would indeed be a pleasure to have you address us.

Thanking you for your kind consideration, and looking forward to your favorable reply, I

am

Very truly yours
(Lucile St. Kelley)
President: Society of Sponsors
of the United States Navy

Mrs. M. Russell Kelley

Russell Kelley

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE



SOCIETY OF SPONSORS
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The Society of Sponsors of the United States Navy was founded in 1908 by Mrs. Keith Frazier Somerville of Cleveland, Mississippi, sponsor of the U.S.S. Tennessee in 1904, and Mrs. Mary Campbell Underwood of Birmingham, Alabama, sponsor of the U.S.S. Birmingham. At that time there were fourteen members. There are now over eight hundred.

The requirement for membership is the christening of a ship of the fighting fleet of the U.S. Navy, and in appreciation of this important occasion it is hoped all sponsors will take pride in the achievements of the Navy and will be interested in the promotion of a popular sentiment for its support and development.

The primary activity of the Society is awarding scholarships for preparation to enter the Naval Academy on the basis of need and qualification. Applicants are considered in the following order:

1. Sons of deceased, retired, and active Navy and Marine personnel.
2. Sons of personnel of the other military services.
3. Sons of civilians.

A prize is also given each year to the graduating midshipman with the highest proficiency in small craft handling.

There are four classes of membership: Life Member, one hundred and fifty dollars with no annual dues; Sustaining Member, fifteen dollars a year; Annual Member, eight dollars a year; and Honorary membership for the wives of the Presidents of the United States.

The Annual Meeting of the Society takes place in Washington, D. C. during May, with two days of meetings followed by the Society's large annual luncheon.

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